

Amendments to the Claims:

The following complete listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application. Kindly amend Claims 1, 10, 15, and 16 and add new Claims 17-22 as follows. No new matter has been introduced.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of using an interactive program guide by at least one user on a given audio/visual device, comprising the steps of:

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs;

5 displaying an interactive program guide comprising at least one of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs;

providing a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for each at least one user;

10 detecting preliminary selection of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs to provide a preliminarily selected audio/visual program;

when a user selects the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, automatically taking a first predetermined action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program;

15 when a user preliminarily selects a different one of the plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual program, automatically taking a second predetermined action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, which second predetermined action is different than the first predetermined action;

20 when a user takes an action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, which action does not comprise either selecting the preliminarily selected audio/visual program or preliminarily selecting a different audio/visual program, automatically taking a third predetermined action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, which third predetermined action is different than the first and the second predetermined action; [[and]]

automatically adding information corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of

discrete selectable items of audio/visual content to the updatable list of preferred items of
25 audio/visual content when the area of visual focus is on a characterizing descriptor as
corresponds to the particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual
content for greater than a predetermined length of time[.]; and

automatically purging the information in response to a predetermined trigger for
facilitating display of recently relevant content, whereby a temporary tool for supporting a
30 present browsing activity is provided, and whereby the viewer is relieved of memorization and
corresponding cognitive loading;

wherein the plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs are embodied in a
plurality of media,

wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across the
35 plurality of media,

wherein the step of automatically taking a first predetermined action comprises adding
information regarding the preliminarily selected audio/visual program to a list of preferred items,

wherein the step of automatically taking a second predetermined action comprises
moving an area of visual focus away from the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, and

40 wherein the step of automatically taking a third predetermined action comprises
displaying the list of preferred items.

2. (previously presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the characterizing descriptors as
individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs comprise at
least one of:

a programming network identifier;

5 a broadcast starting time;

a description of audio/visual content as corresponds to the audio/visual program; and

an audio/visual program media source.

Claims 3-7 (canceled):

8. (original) The method of claim 1 wherein detecting preliminary selection of a particular
one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs further comprises detecting at least a

predetermined relationship between a present position of one of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to the particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and an area of visual focus.

9. (original) The method of claim 1 and further comprising determining when the user selects the preliminarily selected audio/visual program by detecting when the user asserts a selection action at a time when a characterizing descriptor as corresponds to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program occupies, at least in part, a same portion of a display as a predetermined area of visual focus.

10. (currently amended) A method of providing an interactive programming guide, comprising the steps of:

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content;

providing an updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content;

displaying an interactive programming guide comprising at least one of the characterizing descriptors;

providing a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for each at least one user;

providing an area of visual focus on a particular displayed one of the characterizing descriptors;

in response to a first signal, adding information regarding the discrete selectable item of audio/visual content as corresponds to the particular displayed one of the characterizing descriptors as is presently in the area of visual focus to the updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content;

in response to a second signal that is different from the first signal, moving the area of visual focus to a different one of the characterizing descriptors;

in response to a third signal that is different from both the first signal and the second signal, displaying the updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content; [[and]]

automatically adding information corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of

discrete selectable items of audio/visual content to the updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content when the area of visual focus is on a characterizing descriptor as corresponds to the particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content for greater than a predetermined length of time[[,]]; and

automatically purging the information in response to a predetermined trigger for facilitating display of recently relevant content, whereby a temporary tool for supporting a present browsing activity is provided, and whereby the viewer is relieved of memorization and corresponding cognitive loading;

wherein the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content are embodied in a plurality of media, and

wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across the plurality of media.

11. (original) The method of claim 10 wherein the response to the third signal further comprises not displaying characterizing descriptors as correspond to items of audio/visual content that are not on the list of preferred items of audio/visual content.

12. (original) The method of claim 10 further comprising:

receiving at least one of the first signal, the second signal, and the third signal from a remote control device.

Claims 13-14 (canceled).

15. (currently amended) A method of using an interactive program guide, comprising the steps of:

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs;

displaying an interactive program guide comprising at least one of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs;

providing a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs, the plurality of cascading filters being

customizable for each at least one user;

10 detecting preliminary selection of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs to provide a preliminarily selected audio/visual program;

determining when the user selects the preliminarily selected audio/visual program by detecting when the user asserts a selection action at a time when a characterizing descriptor as corresponds to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program occupies, at least in part, a same
15 portion of a display as a predetermined area of visual focus;

when a user selects the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, automatically taking a first predetermined action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program;

when a user preliminarily selects a different one of the plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual program, automatically taking a second predetermined action with respect to the
20 preliminarily selected audio/visual program, which second predetermined action is different than the first predetermined action;

when a user takes an action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, the action not comprising either selecting the preliminarily selected audio/visual program or preliminarily selecting a different audio/visual program, automatically taking a third
25 predetermined action with respect to the preliminarily selected audio/visual program, which third predetermined action is different than the first and the second predetermined action; [[and]]

automatically adding information corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content to the updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content when the area of visual focus is on a characterizing descriptor as
30 corresponds to the particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content for greater than a predetermined length of time[[,]]; and

automatically purging the information in response to a predetermined trigger for facilitating display of recently relevant content, whereby a temporary tool for supporting a present browsing activity is provided, and whereby the viewer is relieved of memorization and
35 corresponding cognitive loading;

wherein the characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs comprise at least one element selected from a group consisting essentially of a programming network identifier, a broadcast starting time, a description of audio/visual content as corresponds to the audio/visual program, and an audio/visual program

40 media source,

wherein the plurality of discrete selectable audio/visual programs are embodied in a plurality of media,

wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across the plurality of media,

45 wherein the step of automatically taking a first predetermined action comprises adding information regarding the preliminarily selected audio/visual program to a list of preferred items,

wherein the step of automatically taking a second predetermined action comprises moving an area of visual focus away from the preliminarily selected audio/visual program,

50 wherein the step of automatically taking a third predetermined action comprises displaying the list of preferred items, and

wherein the step of detecting preliminary selection of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs further comprises detecting at least a predetermined relationship between a present position of one of the characterizing descriptors as corresponds to the particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs and an area of visual focus.

16. (currently amended) A method of providing an interactive programming guide, comprising:

providing access to characterizing descriptors as individually correspond to a plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content;

5 providing an updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content;

displaying an interactive programming guide comprising at least one of the characterizing descriptors;

10 providing a plurality of cascading filters for facilitating determination of a particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs, the plurality of cascading filters being customizable for each at least one user;

providing an area of visual focus on a particular displayed one of the characterizing descriptors;

15 in response to a first signal, adding information regarding the discrete selectable item of audio/visual content as corresponds to the particular displayed one of the characterizing descriptors as is presently in the area of visual focus to the updatable list of preferred items of

audio/visual content;

in response to a second signal that is different from the first signal, moving the area of visual focus to a different one of the characterizing descriptors;

in response to a third signal that is different from both the first signal and the second
20 signal, displaying the updatable list of preferred items of audio/visual content;

receiving at least one of the first signal, the second signal, and the third signal from a remote control device; [[and]]

automatically adding information corresponding to a particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content to the updatable list of preferred items of
25 audio/visual content when the area of visual focus is on a characterizing descriptor as corresponds to the particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content for greater than a predetermined length of time[[,]]; and

automatically purging the information in response to a predetermined trigger for facilitating display of recently relevant content, whereby a temporary tool for supporting a
30 present browsing activity is provided, and whereby the viewer is relieved of memorization and corresponding cognitive loading;

wherein the response to the third signal further comprises not displaying characterizing descriptors as correspond to items of audio/visual content that are not on the list of preferred items of audio/visual content,

35 wherein the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content are embodied in a plurality of media, and

wherein the plurality of cascading filters simultaneously considers content across the plurality of media.

17. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein the automatically purging step comprises responding to the predetermined trigger comprising at least one element selected from a group consisting essentially of a specific time of day, a specific period of time, a specific period of time after an initial entry in the updateable list, a specific period of time after a final entry in the
5 updateable list, a detection of a specific triggering event, and a detection of a particular program selection for present viewing.

18. (new) The method of Claim 10, wherein the automatically purging step comprises responding to the predetermined trigger comprising at least one element selected from a group consisting essentially of a specific time of day, a specific period of time, a specific period of time after an initial entry in the updateable list, a specific period of time after a final entry in the updateable list, a detection of a specific triggering event, and a detection of a particular program selection for present viewing.

19. (new) The method of Claim 15, wherein the automatically purging step comprises responding to the predetermined trigger comprising at least one element selected from a group consisting essentially of a specific time of day, a specific period of time, a specific period of time after an initial entry in the updateable list, a specific period of time after a final entry in the updateable list, a detection of a specific triggering event, and a detection of a particular program selection for present viewing.

20. (new) The method of Claim 16, wherein the automatically purging step comprises responding to the predetermined trigger comprising at least one element selected from a group consisting essentially of a specific time of day, a specific period of time, a specific period of time after an initial entry in the updateable list, a specific period of time after a final entry in the updateable list, a detection of a specific triggering event, and a detection of a particular program selection for present viewing.

21. (new) The method of Claim 1, wherein the automatically adding step comprises adding information corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items of audio/visual content to the updateable list of preferred items when the particular one of the plurality of discrete selectable items comprises the particular one of the discrete selectable audio/visual programs determined by one or more of the plurality of cascading filters.

22. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the automatically adding step is performed without any explicit input from the user such that the automatically step is completely transparent to the user.